

January 7, 2018

TO: Town Board Members, Town of Fort Ann, Washington County, New York

FM: Joseph F. Loszynski, Park Manager, Lake Hadlock Park District

SUBJ: Monthly Progress Report

MATTERS PENDING FROM LAST PROGRESS REPORT:

1. Concerning the matter of shoreline management and developing a plan that prevents and deters the illegal and unauthorized development of Lake Hadlock's shoreline, I have had numerous productive discussions with the town supervisor and other experts in the field regarding this issue. Objectives for a plan have been established based upon sound scientific standards, adequate oversight and controls, prudent aquatic management and preserving this natural resource.

Please understand there is an urgency to get something in place either through a town law or ordinance before the construction period starts in late spring or early summer of this year. As mentioned numerous times in previous progress reports, APA does not have the personnel to oversee local development around the perimeter of any lake in the Adirondack Park, including Lake Hadlock. They rely almost entirely on local enforcement, prevention and monitoring. Very rarely do they independently identify a violation of law but rather is made aware of situations either through concerned lake owners or observations by the park manager. Anyone observing the land development on Lake Hadlock over the last several years knows firsthand that the current process or system has not deterred owners from violating state laws but rather has contributed to the ongoing destruction of the shoreline. As most of us are aware, rarely is any destruction correctable to a point of restoring the shoreline to its original condition.

APA and DEC concur that compliance is only ensured if appropriate measures are in place to compel lake owners to follow formal procedures that is mandated by a town law and/ or ordinance. They also agree that prevention should be our goal and we should not fall victim to a reactive posture that has proven to be a failure over the last several decades. This next sizeable step to a higher level of lake management may be controversial at times and there may be resistance but the ecology of the lake should come first and all actions must be based upon preserving this natural resource.

I respectfully welcome any assistance from the town board in providing input and helping educate constituents who have a vested interest in the proposed oversight of shoreline development. I am hopeful that I will be prepared to present the final version of the shoreline management plan no later than March 12, 2018, at that town board meeting.

MATTER IS PENDING.

2. Minor maintenance continues on the mechanical harvester during the winter months. No contractor has been identified willing to provide an estimate on painting the harvester. The operability of the harvester obviously doesn't depend on getting the machine painted but it would go a long way in preventing further rust and corrosion to the pontoon chambers and help with the minor leaks that have developed over the last several years. I have asked LHA Board Members to provide some assistance with this. MATTER IS PENDING.
3. I regret to report that AIM (Aquatic Invasive Management) group closed their business effective January 1, 2018. As most of you are aware, AIM was the contractor that provided hand harvesting during the 2017 season. Plans were in place with the owner to entirely map Lake Hadlock of invasive and native plants so we could do a more effective job minimizing milfoil fragments and creating a more fertile native plant population for fish spawning and the protection of smaller fish species in our lake. I have spoken personally with Tommy Thomson, the owner of AIM and he has offered his assistance moving forward with securing a competent and credible contractor to continue the work that has been left undone on Lake Hadlock. ALL MATTERS CONCERNING AIM HAS CEASED. CLOSED.

NEW BUSINESS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD:

1. Due to the totally unexpected news of AIM dissolving, several contacts have been made with other contractors that either conduct hand harvesting and/or suction harvesting. Our seasonal needs have been discussed and their schedules are being checked to determine if their availability could accommodate the 35 day hand harvesting schedule planned for the 2018 season. Because every day is important when the demand for services far exceeds available contractors, I am requesting permission to formulate and send an RFP to all potential contractors, once the content and language has been approved by the town supervisor and town attorney. MATTER IS PENDING.
2. Statistics and data is being collected which will be the basis for the 2017 Annual Operations Report required by our APA permit for mechanical harvesting, hand harvesting and benthic barriers. This report is due February 28th but will be prepared and submitted well in advance of this date. MATTER IS PENDING.

END OF REPORT.